

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended): A water electrolysis system, comprising:
an electrode including a metal oxynitride electrode catalyst comprising an oxynitride containing at least one transition metal element selected from the group consisting of La, Ta, Nb, Ti, and Zr, wherein atomic ratio of
(transition metal element):(oxygen):(nitrogen) is $(1\pm 0.1):(1\pm 0.1):(1\pm 0.1)$; and
an acidic electrolyte contacting said metal oxynitride electrode catalyst; and
electric power source connected to said electrode,
wherein said metal oxynitride electrode catalyst having an oxygen reduction catalytic activity at a potential of 0.4 V or higher relative to the reversible hydrogen electrode potential in said acidic electrolyte, ~~and water is electrolyzed in the water electrolysis system by electric power.~~

2. (Previously presented): The water electrolysis system according to Claim 1, wherein the metal oxynitride electrode catalyst is dispersed as fine particles on a catalyst carrier which is an electronically conductive powder.

- 3-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended): An organic electrolysis system, comprising:

an electrode including a metal oxynitride electrode catalyst comprising an oxynitride containing at least one transition metal element selected from the group consisting of La, Ta, Nb, Ti, and Zr, wherein atomic ratio of (transition metal element):(oxygen):(nitrogen) is $(1\pm0.1):(1\pm0.1):(1\pm0.1)$; and an acidic electrolyte contacting said metal oxynitride electrode catalyst; and electric power source connected to said electrode,

wherein said metal oxynitride electrode catalyst having an oxygen reduction catalytic activity at a potential of 0.4 V or higher relative to the reversible hydrogen electrode potential in said acidic electrolyte, ~~and an organic compound is electrolyzed in the organic electrolysis system by electric power.~~

7. (Previously presented): The organic electrolysis system according to Claim 6, wherein the metal oxynitride electrode catalyst is dispersed as fine particles on a catalyst carrier which is an electronically conductive powder.

8. (Currently amended): A fuel cell, comprising:

a membrane electrolyte assembly; and

a collector for collecting electricity, said collector being disposed on both sides of said membrane electrolyte assembly,

wherein said membrane electrolyte assembly comprising

an electrode including a metal oxynitride electrode catalyst comprising an oxynitride containing at least one transition metal element selected from the group consisting of La, Ta, Nb, Ti, and Zr, wherein atomic ratio of (transition metal element):(oxygen):(nitrogen) is $(1\pm0.1):(1\pm0.1):(1\pm0.1)$; and

an acidic electrolyte contacting said metal oxynitride electrode catalyst[[:]],

wherein said metal oxynitride electrode catalyst having an oxygen reduction catalytic activity at a potential of 0.4 V or higher relative to the reversible hydrogen electrode potential in said acidic electrolyte, ~~and electric power is generated by the fuel cell.~~

9. (Previously presented): The fuel cell according to Claim 8, wherein the metal oxynitride electrode catalyst is dispersed as fine particles on a catalyst carrier which is an electronically conductive powder.